



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 23

MARCH 2016

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A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

After a competitive ballot, Peter Evans has been elected to represent RPEQs on the Board. BPEQ appreciates the time and effort put in by all candidates who nominated to serve their fellow RPEQs and the profession.



The 2016 election was the first time the election was conducted by a third party and voting was done online. BPEQ intends to utilise online voting in future elections and has taken away some valuable lessons from this ballot.

BPEQ has welcomed the announcement of infrastructure plans from both the federal and state governments in recent weeks. Both plans recognise the significant infrastructure investment required in Queensland and identify specific projects. I had the privilege of attending the joint Infrastructure Association of Queensland, Engineers Australia and Consult Australia Infrastructure Plan Breakfast earlier this month, hearing from the Deputy Premier about the state government's plans. An in-depth feature article on both plans will be included in next month's e-news.

The Board held its monthly meeting and annual strategy meeting earlier in March and committed to several new objectives going forward. An ongoing

focus will be engaging with and supporting women in engineering. On International Women's Day, BPEQ announced a 30 per cent increase in the number of female RPEQs, a noteworthy achievement and something BPEQ wants to build on.

Increasing the total number of registered engineers is another priority for BPEQ starting with renewals next month. RPEQs have from 1 April 2016 to 31 May 2016 to renew their 12 month registration which can be done online. To assist RPEQs with renewing their registration online we have prepared an easy step by step guide.

You can read about these stories and more in this edition of the BPEQ e-news. If there is any matter you want to raise or feedback you want to provide please contact BPEQ via email at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or call 07 3198 0000.

Kylie Mercer
Registrar



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RPEQS

BPEQ extends a warm welcome to the following engineers who became registered in the last month:

John Hewitt, Gerald Foo, Daniel Kee, Susan Kim Teh, Thomas Hicks, Jason Fratus, Christian Woern, Adam Mitchell, Steven Dineen, Chandrasekara Senanayaka, Soroush Housh, David Anderson, Siew Fong Lee, Richard Todd, Lance Collier, Bradley Laki, Ho Yong Tiong, Michael Whitehouse, Joshua Sanders, Stephen Hammer, Dimosthenis Besios, Juan de Beer, Rohan McElroy, Thomas Daly, Jane Smalley, Hamid Zarei, John Wood, Emma-Lee Thomas, Michael Beck, Neil Moody, M Mahmudul Hasan, Seyed Mousavindejad, Rajesh Mahajan, Geoffrey Spencer, Matthew Wilkie, Paul Mikan, Peter Statton, Gilles Rochecouste, Peter Bettinzoli, Phuong Thuong Nguyen, Kevin Yew, Mark Lynn, Andrew King, Chee Chiu Wan, Michael Berger, Glen Strike, Joshua Birkbeck, Anthony Bowman, Ashley Poulton, Fahim Ghouri, Catherine Morris, Joshua Ellis, Hani Korkis, Anthony Corrie-Keilig, Karthik Ganesan,

Peter George, John Brown, Andrew King, Rajiv Pandit, Faisal Mir, Lalyn Bartram, Andray Bath, Rohit Patil, Marthinus Boshoff, Timothy Wall, Kelvin McKinnon, Delene Kock, Adam Whittaker, Tony Ng, Jose Suarez, Patrick O'Flaherty, Bijay Gyawali, Ramon Romero, Richard Campos, Ching-Hwang Lu, Myra Nolan, Sandeep Sebastian, Daniel McLeod, Sanjay Kumar, Stephen Brooks, Addison Gabriel, Benjamin O'Bree, Min Lee, Brian Healy, Charles Kelly, Fiona Boyle, Paul Philips, Liana Bourke, Francis White, Stephen Boyd, Anthony Rooke, Dafydd Hayward, Parag Chumble, Michael Jimmieson, Andrew Brassett, Hugh Taylor, Siavash Hashemi, Loku Premananda, Zafar Ul Haq, Emma Rogers, Christopher Boyle, Angus Miller, Payam Hosseini, Katherine Eastaughffe, Alexander Comino, Ling Wong, Simon Vant

BPEQ HOSTS FIRST CPD SEMINAR



Dr Terry Fitzsimmons addresses RPEQs.

BPEQ's first CPD seminar was held in late February with more than 80 RPEQs attending the half-day session.

Academic and consultant, Dr Terry Fitzsimmons conducted the seminar which covered leadership, management skills, gender studies, emotional intelligence and what makes a successful executive, while BPEQ's Senior Legal Officer David Brotchie discussed the RPEQ Code of Practice and the importance of CPD. The feedback from RPEQs about the seminar was largely positive and BPEQ has taken away some new ideas for future CPD topics.

More information on gender studies and emotional intelligence, communication, cultural understanding, financial management and negotiation were some of the topics suggested by RPEQs.

BPEQ plans to hold future CPD events for RPEQs and welcomes suggestions. If you have an idea for a CPD seminar topic contact nathaniel.tunney@bpeq.qld.gov.au.



BPEQ REPORTS RISE IN THE NUMBER OF FEMALE RPEQS

More than 700 female engineers are now registered with BPEQ, a 30 per cent increase since this time last year.

The growth in the number of female RPEQs exceeds the overall increase of RPEQs at 7 per cent and comes after BPEQ enacted and participated in several initiatives throughout 2015 with the aim of promoting engineering to women.

The current crop of female RPEQs are doing their bit to promote the profession with registered mining engineer Maria Joyce nominated in the Exceptional Woman in Queensland category at the 2016 Resources Awards for Women on International Women's Day.

Maria is the General Manager for MEC Mining and became registered in the area of mining engineering in 2011. Maria started out in civil engineering, but after taking an elective mining subject she was instantly hooked. She experienced her first taste of practical mining engineering while completing vacation work stints in Blackwater. Maria went on to receive a scholarship from the Queensland Mining Council which helped her complete her studies and then enter the workforce.

As a Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) committee member/mentor and part of the University of Queensland's prestigious faculty of Business, Economics and Law Career Mentoring Program, one her greatest passions is championing gender diversity and empowering women in the resources sector. Maria says it was a thrilling and humbling experience to be recognised for her efforts at the awards and a major career highlight. She believes everyone in the resources sector has a duty to develop the next generation of professionals within the industry, technically as well as ethically and culturally.

Along with helping other women in the resources sector, Maria nominates her own journey in the sector as being a major achievement.

Previously it was unheard of for a woman to be running a mining or engineering company, but as General Manager of MEC Mining Maria has broken new ground for female engineers and continues to do so with WIMARQ.

Maria believes that best way for companies to support and encourage female engineers is to offer flexible work environments and elevating more women to senior leadership positions within the industry based on their own merits and achievements.

Maria, who is pregnant with twins, doesn't plan to rest on her laurels; instead she will continue to advocate for women in the resources sector and share her knowledge and experience with others.





TIME TO RENEW

Registration renewals begin in April. This year BPEQ is accepting renewals online, making the process quicker and easier.

To renew online you must be able to answer all fitness to practice questions in the negative and the first continuing professional development (CPD) question in the positive (CPD questions do not apply to RPEQ non-practising).

This easy step by step guide will guide you through renewing online:

1. Go to the Board's Website: www.bpeq.qld.gov.au
2. Select the **"Sign In"** button at the top right to login to the website and add your username and password (If you have not logged in previously, or you cannot remember your details, please use the **"Forgot my password"** feature in the **"Sign In"** window. This feature will email you a link to reset your password. If you don't receive an email check your spam mailbox before you contact BPEQ).
3. After you login the **"Sign In"** button will change to **"Hi [your first name]"**, click this button to access your personal profile page.
4. To renew, select **"Renew Now"** (the format on the screen is the same as the paper form).
5. The first screen contains information relating to the renewal process. Click the **"Renew Online"** link.
6. The second screen deals with your Personal Details including your contact (business) address.
7. Update your details and answer any questions (some details are mandatory and must be completed before you can proceed).
8. Scroll down and click on **"Next Page"** to go to the next screen.
9. The next screen deals with Fitness to Practice: remember, if you cannot answer **"No"** to every question, you will need to use the paper renewal form.
10. The next screen deals with **CPD**: remember, if you cannot answer **"Yes"** to the first question you will need to use the paper renewal form. You can answer either **"Yes"** or **"No"** to the second question but you **MUST** nominate your approved scheme if you are answering yes to this question.
11. The next screen deals with the **Privacy Statement and Declaration**. You must complete the declaration in order to make your payment.
12. Click **"Submit"** to go to the **"Payments"** page.
13. The next screen deals with your **Online Payment**. First, verify the invoice(s) outstanding. Next, enter credit card details (note: credit card country is not required detail) and press **"Pay Now"** to submit your order (click only once).
14. When you have paid, print out the screen which records your successful payment. Your bill will remain on your profile until payments are reconciled at close of business. Please do not pay again.
15. Your receipt of payment will be sent to the email address you have provided to the Board.
16. Finally, **"Log Off"** using the button on the top of the window.
17. To confirm your Registration, engineers may wish to go to the Board's website 24 hours after renewing their registration and use the **"Search Register"** by entering the surname and then enter.

If you are changing your registration category (i.e. RPEQ to RPEQ non-practising) you will need to use and submit a hard copy renewal form. If you are changing your registration from non-practising you will need to demonstrate to BPEQ that you continue to be qualified and competent to practice as a RPEQ, you must provide the following:

- If you have been a RPEQ non-practising for less than five years,
 - evidence that you hold professional accreditation from one of BPEQ's approved assessment entities (charted); or
 - Evidence of your CPD, demonstrating you have undertaken at least 150 hours of structured CPD in the previous five years (you may be required to undergo an audit of your CPD if BPEQ is not satisfied with your logbook).
- If you have been a RPEQ non-practising for five years or more, you must provide a new assessment of your qualifications and competencies from an approved assessment entity.



CASE NOTES

BOARD CAUTIONS ENGINEER OVER APPROVING A DEFICIENT DESIGN FOR A RETAINING WALL

The Board issued a formal caution to a registered professional engineer as a result of their conduct in preparing a design, Form 15 Design Certificate for building Design or Specification, and Form 16 Inspection Certificate for a boulder retaining wall at a residential subdivision.

After a complaint was made about the engineer's conduct by the relevant local government authority, the Board decided to investigate the authority's concerns that the engineer had prepared a design for the wall that was deficient, and that the engineer's general conduct regarding the rectification of that deficiency was unsatisfactory.

It was found that the wall for which the engineer prepared the design, Form 15, and Form 16 was already constructed before the engineer was involved. The wall was constructed without a design and without the involvement of a RPEQ. The engineer was engaged to inspect the wall, undertake a design analysis, and if their opinion was that the wall was appropriate, document its design and issue a Form 15 and Form 16. The engineer had a junior from their office conduct the inspection and prepare the design under their supervision. The engineer checked the design and approved it and gave the Form 15 and Form 16.

The design was found to be deficient because it provided insufficient resistance to sliding. The base boulders of the wall were not embedded deep enough into the founding soil to give the wall sufficient resistance to sliding given the angle at which the wall stood. The engineer's junior did not assess sliding resistance in the design check and the engineer failed to identify the deficiency in their review of the junior's work. The Board found that

the engineer should have identified the deficiency and that their failure to do so was conduct of a lesser standard than that which might reasonably be expected of him by the public and the engineer's professional peers. The Board therefore concluded that the engineer's failure to identify the deficiency was unsatisfactory professional conduct.

Although the Board made a finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct against the engineer, there were certain mitigating factors. The engineer cooperated fully with the Board's investigation, making submissions to the Board and participating in an interview with the Board's investigator. The engineer acknowledged the inappropriateness of their conduct and took responsibility for the error. The Board found that the engineer discovered the error himself and then took steps to contact the client to notify of the error and discuss a solution, and that the engineer's actions were consistent with what would be expected of a professional and competent registered professional engineer. The engineer demonstrated to the Board's satisfaction that they had put into place measures to attempt to ensure that such an error does not occur again.

Ultimately, the Board concluded that the failing fell towards the lower end of severity of unsatisfactory professional conduct, and given the significant mitigating factors, decided to issue the engineer with a formal caution and put them on notice to be mindful of their conduct in certifying retaining walls in the future.

For more information:

- For legal enquiries: 07 3198 0006
- For media enquiries: 07 3198 0004

THE VOTES ARE IN

Peter Evans has been elected to the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland, to replace Julie Mitchell as the elected RPEQ representative in July.

Peter came out on top of a highly competitive field, just ahead of fellow RPEQs Maria Fuchs, Sara Courtenay and Jessica Holz.

Peter has held the position of Deputy Chief Engineer (Pavements Materials and Geotechnical) in DTMR since 2010. His team of four directors and 85 specialist staff develops and maintains specifications and standards, and provides practical expert advice on asphalt, other





paving materials and slope stability issues for the road network. Peter also co-manages DTMR's \$3.6 million annual research program, and leads the implementation of research findings, to deliver improved and more economical and sustainable pavements and bridges.

After serving initially in local government, Peter joined DTMR 1982. He served as Area Engineer, Project Engineer, Manager and Regional Director in Barcaldine, Rockhampton, Warwick and Roma. He has managed or directed projects in water supply and

sewerage systems, and road works and bridges across Queensland.

Peter holds a degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Queensland. He is also a qualified Local Government Engineer, a Fellow of Engineers Australia, an RPEQ (since 1992), a member of Professionals Australia and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Peter will officially join the Board in July, following approval from the Governor-in-Council.

TOWNSVILLE REGIONAL MEETING

Townsville is the destination for BPEQ's first regional meeting of 2016.

In Townsville BPEQ staff will meet with engineering students from James Cook University, local government engineers and engineering consulting firms, while the Board will host a meet and greet for local RPEQs.

The meet and greet is an excellent opportunity for RPEQs to meet Board members, network and socialise. New RPEQs will also receive their registration certificates.

Date: Thursday, 5 May 2016

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Venue: The Ville Resort, Sir Leslie Thiess Drive, Townsville City QLD 4810

RSVP: to executiveassistant@bpeq.qld.gov.au by 29 April 2016

BOARD OF
**PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS**
OF QUEENSLAND

Is your
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up to date?
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renewals
begin in April

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